

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A mask for use with ~~a ventilation or~~ a CPAP device, comprising:
a frame; and
a cushion provided to the frame, the cushion, in cross section, having a generally U-shaped configuration defining a face contacting surface, an inner leg of the U-shaped configuration being proximal to the frame and an outer leg defining a distal end spaced away from the frame, the inner leg defining an opening in the cushion, the opening being adapted to receive pressurized gas from the CPAP device, wherein the U-shaped configuration includes a connecting portion between the ~~first inner leg~~ and ~~second legs~~ the outer leg that provides said face contacting surface, and the inner leg extends in a continuous, uninterrupted and smooth manner in a direction of flow of the pressurized gas through the opening.

25. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the frame includes an inner peripheral portion that is connected to or otherwise provided to the cushion.

26. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the cushion comprises foam material ~~and the frame comprises a shell.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the cushion comprises ~~silicon~~ silicone material ~~and the frame comprises a shell.~~

28. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the cushion extends from the frame and curves generally away from the frame to form the face contacting surface.

29. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the ~~first~~ inner and ~~second~~ outer legs are generally mirror images of one another.

30. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the outer leg curves outwardly compared to the frame such that a free end portion thereof is directed away from a patient side of the mask and substantially parallel to the inner leg.

31. (Currently Amended) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the U-shaped configuration defines a recess between the ~~first~~ inner and ~~second~~ outer legs and positioned opposite to said face contacting surface.

32. (Previously Presented) The mask according to claim 24, wherein said face contacting surface includes a generally convex configuration adapted to contact the patient's face.

33. (New) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the inner leg extends to the opening.

34. (New) The mask according to claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the inner leg has a convex shape.

35. (New) The mask according to claim 24, wherein the cushion extending from the outer leg across the connecting portion and to the inner leg has a generally convex shape.

36. (New) The mask according to claim 24, further comprising headgear connectors adapted to connect to headgear.

37. (New) The mask according to claim 36, further comprising headgear adapted to connect to the headgear connectors, the headgear adapted to secure the headgear to a patient's head.

38. (New) A mask for use with a CPAP device, comprising a cushion having a generally U-shaped cross-sectional configuration, the cushion including an inner leg, an outer leg, and a face contacting surface formed between the inner leg and the outer leg, the inner leg defining an opening in the cushion, the opening adapted to receive pressurized gas from the CPAP device, wherein the inner leg extends in a continuous, uninterrupted and smooth manner in a direction of flow of the pressurized gas through the opening.

39. (New) The mask according to claim 38, further comprising a supporting portion adapted to support the cushion.

40. (New) The mask according to claim 38, further comprising a tube portion connected to the opening, the tube portion extending from the supporting portion.

41. (New) The mask according to claim 40, wherein the tube portion is adapted to connect to a pressurized gas conduit.

42. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the cushion comprises foam material.

43. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the cushion comprises silicone.

44. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the outer leg curves outwardly such that a free end portion thereof is directed away from a patient side of the mask and substantially parallel to the inner leg.

45. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the U-shaped configuration defines a recess between the inner and outer legs and positioned opposite to said face contacting surface.

46. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the face contacting surface includes a generally convex configuration adapted to contact the patient's face.

47. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the inner leg extends to the air flow opening.

48. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein at least a portion of the inner leg has a convex shape.

49. (New) The mask according to claim 38, wherein the cushion extending from the outer leg across the connecting portion and to the inner leg has a generally convex shape.

50. (New) The mask according to claim 38, further comprising headgear connectors adapted to connect to headgear.

51. (New) The mask according to claim 50, further comprising headgear adapted to connect to the headgear connectors, the headgear adapted to secure the headgear to a patient's head.